

THE SOCIETY AND FELLOWSHIP
OF THE INNER TEMPLE:

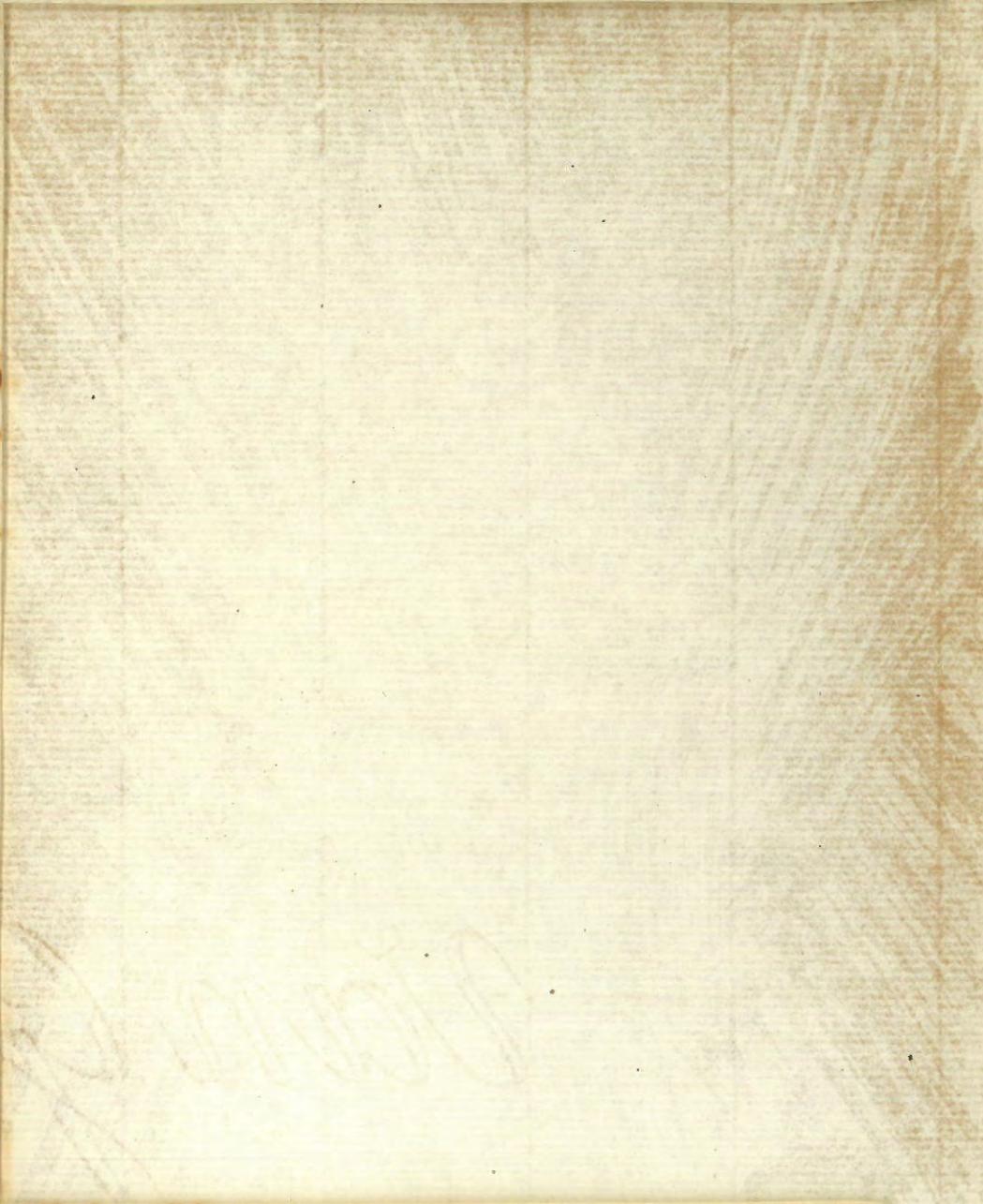
MIDDLE TEMPLE



BY

WILLIAM WILLIS,

One of the Masters of the Bench.



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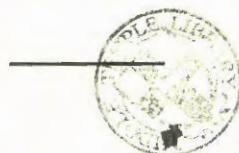
THE INNER TEMPLE HALL,

Monday, May 24th, 1897,

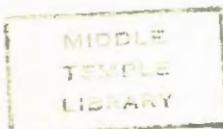
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OF THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE
INNER TEMPLE.



THROUGHOUT the year, members of Universities in England and her colonies, men coming from other professions and from trade, men of different colour, race and language, are being admitted to the Society and Fellowship of the Inner Temple. These all enter into the company of living distinguished men, whose rank, both at the Bar, and on the Bench is fitted to inspire reverence and regard in those who become students of this house. The Lord Chancellor is a Master of this Bench, and perhaps for the first time in our history, the Speaker of the House of Lords and the Speaker of the House of Commons are members of the same Inn and Masters of the same Bench, the Inner Temple, both of them remarkable for their intellectual force, their learning and apt expressions of speech. Ten judges of the High Court are members of this honourable society, and Masters of the Bench. This House claims among its members some who have held, and some who still hold, high political office. Many distinguished advocates at the Bar are members of the Inner Temple, and time would fail me to enumerate them and speak of them in fitting and becoming terms. They are all men of noble bearing, and actuated by a sense of the highest honour. Many possess a knowledge of our jurisprudence which is ample and exact, and we have in our midst one of the greatest criminal lawyers of the age, who in the vindication of public justice never forgot what was fair and just to the accused. Some of the sweetest characters I have known are found amongst its more retired members. Some possess a classical knowledge, and others an acquaintance with English literature and history, which excite admiration. Some there are, whose conversation is lighted up with a delicate sparkling wit. Among the benchers of this House can be seen the best of all successions, a virtuous father and a virtuous son. The senior bencher is a man of singularly sweet and noble temper, of the utmost refinement and well known as the author of "Hortensius" and the life of Cicero. It is therefore a day never to be

forgotten, when a student is admitted to such fellowship. It presents to him examples for his imitation, lays him under the most stringent obligations to observe the traditional morality of the profession, indeed it should make him give pledges for industry, patience, and integrity.

But the student of this house is admitted to a greater and nobler fellowship than that which these living men constitute. There is an instinct in our nature by which the member of a college, or an inn of Court, or of a regiment of an army, deems himself in the society and fellowship of all who have ever been members of the body to which he belongs, and particularly of all those who have added to its reputation and glory. You will have anticipated me when I say that by the society and fellowship of the Inner Temple, I mean that vast and noble body of men, who for five centuries have been among the great master spirits in the administration of the law, either at the Bar or on the Bench, a body of men of such varied gifts, such matchless intellect, for the most part of such noble conduct, frequently of such high and heroic daring, as to render it impossible, one would suppose, for any student admitted to their fellowship to deviate the least from the traditions he receives, or to permit his life to be wasted in idleness or dissipation. The pressure of this splendid assembly is such as to fill a man with the highest admiration for his species; to cause him to be constantly thinking better of his fellows, and recognising their relation to Him who is the common parent of all. Relying on your forbearance, I desire to unroll before you the names of the most illustrious of this society, leaving you to add to them by your own reading and study. The great and illustrious are so many, that I shall scarcely be able to do more than mention some of their names, and here and there to quote words bestowed upon them by their contemporaries or successors.

“To count them all, demands a thousand tongues
A throat of brass and adamantine lungs.”

It is not easy to determine at what exact period of time the Inner Temple came into existence. We know by the Paston letters, that it was in existence in the early part of the reign of Henry VI. Some would place it much earlier. Everything before the commencement of the reign of Henry VI. is vague and doubtful. I must, however, mention names of an earlier period, lest it should be supposed I had forgotten them. They are names so distinguished and their influence on English society has been so great that I would rather leave them to be

enjoyed as members of the Temple before the division into Inner and Middle, without claiming them for the house I love so dearly.

Tradition, long and continuous, asserts that Chaucer and Gower, Hoccleve and Strode, were members of the Inner Temple. Gower and Strode were Chaucer's fellow students. If reliance can be placed upon the statement of Speght, Chaucer was undoubtedly a member of the Inner Temple. In his life of Chaucer, Speght tells us "that not many yeeres since Master Buckley did see a record in the Inner Temple, where Geoffrey Chaucer was fined two shillings for beating a Franciscan fryar in Fleet-streete."

"Chaucer first with harmony informed
The language of our fathers, and in times
Dark and untaught began, with charming verse,
To tame the rudeness of his native land."

Approaching a period of certainty and record, we find that Sir Thomas Lyttelton, a student of the Inner Temple, became a judge of the Common Pleas on April 17th, 1466, rendered famous to all time by his treatise on "Tenures," a work which has been enriched by Chief Justice Coke's most learned commentary. Lord St. Leonards speaks of him as "our famous Judge Lyttelton," and Maddox styles his work "a classical book." From Sir Thomas Lyttelton have descended three noble families whose names are found this day in the ranks of the peerage.

The members of this house have often held high political office. If Gray's Inn gave, for the management of political affairs in the reign of Elizabeth, William Cecil, the ancestor of the Marquises of Salisbury and of Exeter, on the death of the great Lord Treasurer, Her Majesty selected his successor from this house, in the person of Thomas Sackville. He early applied himself to political affairs, and twice left England as ambassador. He was Lord Treasurer from May, 1599, to 1608. He was created Baron Buckhurst by Elizabeth in 1567, and Earl of Dorset March 1603. He is remarkable not only as a statesman, but as a writer, and took part in the composition of the first English tragedy, a play called "Gorboduc." It was acted before Elizabeth by students of the Inner Temple in 1561. He also wrote the induction to the poem called the "Mirrour of Magistrates." Of his poetry, in the dedication to him of the "Fairy Queen," Spenser writes,

"Whose learned Muse hath writ her own record
In golden verse, worthy immortal fame."

If Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth required legal assistance at the trial of Mary Queen of Scots, she chose a member of this house, Edmund Anderson, to supply learning, firmness, and discretion. He was admitted to the Inner Temple in June, 1550, and was on the death of Sir Thomas Dyer appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, May 2nd, 1582. His name should ever be remembered in connection with the case of Richard Cavendish, in which he bore his decisive testimony to the established principles of a limited Monarchy, declaring that neither he nor his fellows could obey the command of the Queen, because it was against the law of the land, which the Queen was sworn to keep as well as they.

Although some seem to think that the Inner Temple has been rendered illustrious chiefly by its members becoming judges of the Common Law Courts, it is rendered most remarkable by the long line of its members who have obtained the highest legal office, that of Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper. The Chancellor in early times was almost always an ecclesiastic, and with two or three exceptions, the first layman and lawyer appointed to the office was Sir Thomas More, who succeeded Wolsey in 1529. The first regularly-bred lawyer who held the Great Seal was Chief Justice Parning in 1341. The first member of this house who was entrusted with the Great Seal was Thomas Audley. It was delivered to him first as Lord Keeper on May 30th, 1532, and afterwards as Lord Chancellor, an order frequently observed until the middle of the last century. It may be noted that in the reign of Charles I. no one held the office of Lord Chancellor. Audley held the Greal Seal for twelve years, during which time events occurred which still affect mankind, and into whose nature and character men still enquire. Catherine of Arragon, after twenty years of faithful service as a wife, was divorced to please the conscience of the King. Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard were divorced by the axe. Fisher and More suffered death rather than recognise the supremacy of a political ruler in the affairs of the Church of Christ. The Church was stripped of its property and distributed among the courtiers of the Crown. The next member of this house who was appointed Lord Chancellor was Thomas Bromley, a member of a family which gave many ornaments to the Bench. His father was distinguisbed in the law, being a reader of the Inner Temple, in the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII. His brother, Sir George Bromley, also a member of this House, attained the rank of Chief Justice of Chester under Queen Elizabeth. Thomas, the

Chancellor, was born in the year 1530. He was chosen Recorder of London and held the office of Solicitor-General for ten years. He was selected as the successor of Sir Nicholas Bacon, on April 26th, 1579, with the rank of Lord Chancellor. Edward Bromley, another member of this family, kept his terms at the Inner Temple, and was raised to the Bench as a Baron of the Exchequer, February 6th, 1610.

One of our number reached the office of Lord Chancellor by strange and peculiar methods. Christopher Hatton, simply by his taste in dress and skill in dancing, became Sir Christopher Hatton and Lord Chancellor. He was admitted a member of the Inner Temple May 29th, 1560. It is doubtful whether he was called to the Bar, as his name does not appear in the list of the Inner Temple Records. He was promoted to the office of Lord Chancellor on April 29th, 1587. Gray supposed that Hatton's country house was at Stoke Poges and we may recall the lines—

“Full oft within the spacious walls
When he had fifty winters o'er him,
My grave Lord Keeper led the brawls
The seal and maces danced before him.

His bushy beard and shoe-strings green,
His high-crown'd hat, and satin doublet,
Mov'd the stout heart of England's queen
Tho' Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it.”

The custody of the Great Seal was held for the last time by an ecclesiastic, when, on the fall of Bacon, it was entrusted to Williams, Bishop of Lincoln. He resigned the office in October, 1625, and on the 1st November in that year the Great Seal was delivered to Thomas Coventry as Lord Keeper. He was the eldest son of Thomas Coventry, also a student of the Inner Temple and a judge of the common pleas. Thomas Coventry, Lord Keeper, was admitted a member of the Inner Temple, Michaelmas, 1595. He was elected Recorder of London, November 16th, 1616, and on March 14th, 1617, was created Solicitor-General, and received the appointment of Attorney-General 11th January, 1621. In this office he was called upon to take the message from the Peers to Lord Bacon, requiring him to send specific answers to the charges preferred against him. When Charles I. gave a long and rambling answer to the petition of right, Coventry was obliged to request the king to accept or reject the measure in the usual form. The king accepted the measure in the accustomed form,

and then violated every one of its provisions. Coventry held the office of Lord Keeper for above 14 years, a place which he enjoyed with universal reputation. He presided at the trial of Lord Audley and in speaking of his dreadful crimes surely no one ever expressed himself with greater dignity.

The next member of the Inner Temple who filled the office of Lord Keeper was Edward Lyttelton, lineally descended in the male line from the author of the "Tenures." He was the friend of Selden, was Recorder of London, afterwards Solicitor-General, and as such conducted the legal argument for the Crown in the case of ship-money. In January, 1640, he was made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Banks, the Attorney-General, foregoing his right to "the Attorney-General's cushion." When Finch resigned the office of Lord Keeper, and fled the country rather than face the impeachment of the Commons of England, the Great Seal was handed to Lyttelton on the 19th January, 1641. On preparations being made for civil war, under pretence of going to his villa at Cranford, he hastened away with the Great Seal to York, where King Charles I. was commencing hostilities. It is strange to say that if any irregularity has occurred in connection with the Great Seal, it has been whilst it was held by a member of this house. Lyttelton ran off with it secretly to York. The mace was stolen from Lord Nottingham, and the Great Seal would have been taken with it, but for the fact that the Lord Chancellor always slept with it under his pillow. When Jeffreys was Chancellor, James II. threw the Great Seal into the river Thames, and it was stolen from Lord Thurlow's house in Great Ormond Street, at a time, it is said, when his lordship did not desire to use it. Lord Keeper Lyttelton sat with the Great Seal in the Philosophers' School at Oxford, and was himself in the year 1645 carried off by the Parliamentary forces whilst making an effort to provide for the safety of Oxford.

On the 25th October, 1645, Sir Richard Lane, a student of this house, was sworn into the office of Keeper of the Great Seal of England. Lane is noted for his brilliant argument tending to show that the charges preferred against Strafford by the Commons of England did not amount to treason in point of law. He afterwards held at Oxford, during the civil war, the sinecure office of Chief Baron, and, as Lord Campbell says, "although he is a legitimate successor of the illustrious Lord Chancellors and Lord Keepers whose names are known to fame, he never was installed in the marble chair in Westminster Hall, nor ever presided on the woolsack."

The Commons and the Peers of England in November 10th, 1643, framed an ordinance invalidating the proceedings under the Great Seal at Oxford, and vested the Seal of the Parliament in commissioners with the powers of Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper, and one of these, Mr. Serjeant Wilde, was a member of the Inner Temple. In the Long Parliament he was Member for Worcester; he was chairman of the committee appointed to prepare the impeachment of the Bishops. Parliament intrusted the Great Seal to six Commissioners, two Lords and four Commoners, and on October 12th, 1648, appointed Wilde Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

On the execution of Charles I., his son Prince Charles ordered a new Great Seal to be engraved. He took this seal with him to Scotland when he was crowned king there, and either at or after the battle of Worcester it was lost. Charles II., after his escape from England, caused another Great Seal to be engraved in Paris, to be kept by himself chiefly as a bauble, says Lord Campbell, till a more fortunate turn in his affairs, when it might be handed over to a Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper to be used for actual business within his recovered realm. Whilst Charles was in exile, this Great Seal was delivered to Sir Edward Herbert, a member of this house, who although he held it only in France, his name is introduced into the list of Lord Chancellors and Lord Keepers. He was created Lord Keeper in the year 1653, and died at Paris in the year 1657.

After the Restoration, the first member of the Inner Temple who became Lord Keeper was Sir Orlando Bridgeman. He succeeded to the office on the dismissal of Lord Clarendon. He was called to the Bar in 1632; he was, on the Restoration, created Chief Baron of the Exchequer, subsequently Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Lord Keeper, August 30th, 1667. He is one of the holders of the Great Seal of whom it was said he never seemed to apprehend Equity, nor had he a head made for the business of such a court.

The next Lord Chancellor whom this house is proud to call its own, is the father of Equity, a master of its procedure, one whose rules and regulations still affect the business of the Court, the Great Lord Chancellor, Lord Nottingham. The eldest son of the Recorder of London, he was called to the Bar in 1645 by the honourable society of the Inner Temple. He held the offices of Solicitor-General and of Attorney-General, and was made Lord Keeper, 1673, Lord Chancellor, 1675, and was created Baron Finch, 1674, and Earl of Nottingham, 1681.

He died, December the 18th, 1682. Cudworth styles him the Oracle of Impartial Justice, and to the whole nation, a pattern of virtue and piety. Dryden thus speaks of him :—

“Our laws that did a boundless ocean seem,
Were coasted all, and fathomed all, by him ;
No Rabbin speaks like him their mystic sense,
So just and with such charms of eloquence,
To whom the double blessing does belong,
With Moses’ inspiration, Aaron’s tongue.”

It is from Lord Nottingham’s time that Equity became a regular and cultivated science.

The next Lord Chancellor, who was a member of this house, is one whose name can even now be scarcely mentioned without exciting the utmost horror, Lord Chancellor Jeffreys. His name need not be mentioned as a warning, for such opportunities for wickedness as met him are not likely to occur again, and under our constitutional system of government, no king is likely to call for such services or to receive such devotion as Jeffreys paid to the Crown. The Bloody Assize, which he conducted as Chief Justice of the King’s Bench, will never pass from the memory of man. Nor will his treatment of Richard Baxter, one of the spiritual leaders of mankind, be easily forgotten, still less the deliberate murder of Algernon Sydney, Sir Thomas Armstrong, and Alice Lisle. We are glad to know that we live outside the whirlpool of such passions as disgraced the Bench when Jeffreys presided, and that our judges are under no temptation to commit such judicial crimes as disgraced the last years of Charles II. and the short reign of James II. Yet, perhaps, in all our judicial history, there is scarcely to be found a man of such keen insight, clear and forcible language, and such vigour in the discharge of business, as Jeffreys. He died in the Tower, April 18th, 1689, at the age of 41 years, having been Common Serjeant and Recorder of Loudon, created Chief Justice of the King’s Bench, September 29th, 1683, and Lord Chancellor, September 28th, 1685.

On the 10th of December, 1688, the Great Seal was thrown into the Thames by the fugitive king, and on the accession of William III. the Great Seal was placed in commission, and one of the commissioners was Sir John Trevor, Master of the Rolls. He stands as a warning and as a discredit to this house, of which he was a member. He was called to the Bar in May, 1661, and was Treasurer of his inn in 1674, and on the 20th October, 1685, was appointed Master of the Rolls. On January 13th, 1689,

after the Revolution, he was replaced in his old position of Master of the Rolls. He held the office of Lord Commissioner for nearly three years until the appointment of John Somers as Lord Keeper, March 23rd, 1693. Trevor was also Speaker of the House of Commons, and was obliged to put a resolution to the House which declared that he had been guilty of a high crime and misdemeanour. The resolution was carried, and he himself was expelled the House on March 16th, 1695. He enjoyed the office of Master of the Rolls until the end of his life.

The successor of Lord Somers was a member of this house, and on May 21st, 1700, Sir Nathan Wright was appointed to the office of Lord Keeper, an office which he held during the remainder of William's reign, and the first three years of the reign of Anne. He was called to the Bar on November 29th, 1677. On the trial of the seven bishops he was the junior counsel for the Crown. Lord Campbell speaks of him as a dull man, and says the occasional occurrence of such an elevation seems wisely contrived by Providence to humble the vanity of those who succeed in public life, and to soften the mortification of those who fail. Sir N. Wright presided as Speaker of the House of Lords for five years without any right to share in its deliberations.

On October 19th, 1710, upon the resignation of Lord Cowper, the Great Seal, after being in Commission for nearly a month, was delivered to Sir Simon Harcourt with the title of Lord Keeper. He was called to the Bar by the society of the Inner Temple in 1683. He filled the offices of Solicitor-General and Attorney-General, but resigned the latter office in February 1708. He appeared at the Bar of the Lords as the leading counsel for Dr. Sacheverell. On September 3rd, 1711, he was raised to the peerage as Baron Harcourt, and on April 7th, 1713, his title was changed from that of Lord Keeper to that of Lord Chancellor. He was, however, immediately discharged from his high office on the arrival of George I. He was created Viscount Harcourt July 29th, 1721, and died July 28th, 1727. He was remarkable for his great eloquence and legal ability, and is well remembered as the intimate friend of Pope and Gay.

Lord Cowper, who was a member of the Middle Temple, held the office of Lord Chancellor twice, and on his retirement from office in 1718, a member of this house was appointed his successor, a man who raised himself to the highest judicial offices by unwearied perseverance and a stupendous store of acquired

knowledge, yet a man who fell from his high estate through his own misconduct, being convicted of corruption in his office of Lord Chancellor. He was called to the Bar by this house on May 21st 1691. He was attached to the Whig party, and was one of the managers of the impeachment of Dr. Sacheverell, and as a reward for his exertions he was appointed Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench on March 13th, 1710. The Great Seal was banded to Thomas Parker on May 12th, 1718. Everything foretold a brilliant and unclouded career. The king accompanied the handing over of the seal by a present of £14,000 and a pension was granted his son of £1,200 a year until he obtained the office of Teller of the Exchequer. On the day when Parker went to Westminster to be sworn in as Chancellor he started from the terrace outside this Hall, and was accompanied on horseback by nearly all the benchers and members of the Inn. A life of Jeffreys was dedicated to him, pointing out his incorruptible integrity and the contrasted splendour of his career. On November 5th, 1721, he was created Viscount Parker of Ewelm, and Earl of Macclesfield. Without warning, without apparently any reason, he resigned the Great Seal on January 4th, 1725. He was at the height of worldly success; his levées were crowded by laity and clergy. He was impeached for corruption on February 12th, 1725. The charges preferred against him were for selling offices contrary to law, and taking extortionate sums of money for them with the knowledge that the money was provided out of the suitor's fund. By an unanimous vote of the Peers, he was found guilty and fined £30,000, and his name was struck off the list of Privy Councillors. Thus he fell. He lived for seven years after his fall, taking no part whatever in public affairs, and dying on April 28th, 1732.

On the resignation of Macclesfield, Lord King, who was called to the Bar by the illustrious Society of the Middle Temple, and was admitted *ad eundem* Inner Temple, 1710, was appointed Speaker of the House of Lords, and subsequently Lord Chancellor. He was also one of the managers of the Commons on the impeachment of Dr. Sacheverell. When George I came to the throne, he was, on November 14th, 1714, raised to the post of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. The Great Seal was put into commission on the resignation of Macclesfield, Sir Joseph Jekyll being one of the commissioners. King, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, was appointed Speaker of the House of Lords, being neither Lord Chancellor nor Lord Keeper. He was raised to the Peerage with the title

of Baron King of Ockham, county Surrey, on May 29th, 1725, and on June 1st, in the same year, the Great Seal was placed in his hands as Lord Chancellor. He held the office until November 29th, 1733. He was, by his mother's side, a member of the family which gave to the world the Philosopher John Locke.

King's successor was Charles Talbot, also a member of this house. His father was successively Bishop of Oxford, Salisbury, and Durham. He was called to the Bar in the year 1710. He was appointed Solicitor-General, April 17th, 1726, and although Sir Harris Nicolas speaks of him as Sir Charles Talbot, it would seem he never was knighted. He was appointed to the office of Lord Chancellor, November 29th, 1733, and created Baron Talbot, of Hensol, December 5th, in the same year. He died in possession of the office on the 14th February, 1737. His death was sudden, at a time when he was apparently in the enjoyment of perfect health ; when he was supposed to have before him a long career of usefulness and glory.

The next Chancellor, conspicuous for his learning and ability, Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, was a member of the Middle Temple. But his successor was a member of this house. Robert Henley held the Great Seal for nine years, in two reigns, and during the whole of four administrations, the last of which he overturned. He was called to the Bar by the Society of the Inner Temple, on June 23rd, 1732. He was appointed Attorney-General, November 6th, 1756, and was nominated Lord Keeper, June 30th, 1757. He is the last lawyer who held the office of Lord Keeper, or presided over the debates of the House of Lords without being able to take part in its deliberations. He was raised to the peerage, with the title of Baron Henley, in order that he might, at the trial of Earl Ferrers for the murder of his servant, preside as Lord High Steward. On the accession of George III., his title of Lord Keeper was converted into that of Lord Chancellor. On May 19th, 1764, he gained a step in the peerage, being created Earl of Northington. He retired from the post of Lord Chancellor, July 30th, 1766, and took the less onerous position of Lord President of the Council. He died January 14th, 1772.

His successor was also taken from the ranks of the Inner Temple, one of the brightest ornaments of his profession and the most popular Chancellor that ever lived, Charles Pratt. He was himself the son of a Chief Justice of the King's Bench. He was called to the Bar by this society in June, 1738. He remained eight or nine years without receiving a single brief.

Lord Campbell says, "He did not invite attorneys to dine with him, and never danced with their daughters." He had resolved to retire from the profession in order to qualify himself for orders till he should in course of time be entitled to a college living. At length, on circuit, a brief was delivered to him, and through the sudden illness of his leader, the responsibility of conducting the cause was cast on Pratt. His management of it was brilliant and successful. His fame ran before him to the next assize town, where he had several briefs. His position was assured. In July, 1757, he was appointed Attorney-General over the head of Charles Yorke, who had been appointed Solicitor-General the November preceding. In January 17th, 1762, he took his seat as Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. In July 17th, 1765, he was created Baron Camden, and on the Earl of Chatham resuming power after the dissolution of the Rockingham administration, Lord Camden was entrusted with the Great Seal with the title of Lord Chancellor. Differing from his colleagues on the measures relating to the American import duties, he was removed from his office on January 17th, 1770. In May, 1776, he received the additional titles of Viscount Bayham and Earl Camden. The last time he appeared in the House of Lords was to support the measure that is called Fox's Libel Act, which established the right of juries to decide on all questions of libel, a principle which he had adopted in practice, and had always advocated. He died April 18th, 1794.

The next Chancellor who was a member of this house was Edward Thurlow—a man, of whom when his contemporaries spoke, they always referred to his gigantic powers of mind. He was called to the bar by the Society of the Inner Temple in November, 1754. He obtained a silk gown after having been little more than seven years at the Bar. His practice indeed had been slight. His application for silk is supposed to have been due to the confidence he had in his own powers. He was admitted at the same time as a Master of the Bench, ten years only having elapsed since his admission as a student; he was appointed Solicitor-General in March, 1770, and Attorney General 19th January, 1771. He was made Lord Chancellor and created Baron Thurlow, June 3rd, 1778, and with the exception of the few months of the coalition ministry, he held the office continuously until the 15th June, 1792, when he was dismissed by the haughty Prime Minister, William Pitt. He lived to be senior Bencher. He died at Brighton, September 12th, 1806. The portrait of him in his

old age, which can be seen in the Parliament Chamber, is one of the happiest possessions of this house. He had, as his Solicitor-General Wedderburn, who was appointed Solicitor-General when Thurlow was made Attorney-General. For seven years Lord North's administration was sustained by the energy and skill of his two great law officers, Thurlow and Wedderburn, both members of the Inner Temple.

Thurlow's successor was a man equally distinguished, but perhaps less exemplary in public life. Of him Junius said, "there is something about him which even treachery cannot trust," and George III. is said to have exclaimed, on hearing of his death, "Then he has not left a greater knave behind him in my dominions." Thurlow, on hearing this, said with an oath, "I perceive His Majesty is quite sane at present." Lord Campbell thinks that Wedderburn was one of the greatest debaters for a lawyer that ever sat in the House of Commons. His bitter and unscrupulous attack upon Franklin at the Cockpit when the Privy Council cheered, went far towards causing the loss to the British Crown of thirteen of its colonies. He was called to the Bar by this house November 25th, 1757. He obtained a silk gown with a patent of precedence in Hilary Term, 1763. On January 25th, 1778, he was appointed Attorney-General, and on June 14th, 1780, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and created Baron Loughborough. He was the first Commissioner when the Great Seal was put into commission on the formation of the Coalition Ministry, April 9th, 1783. He was appointed Lord Chancellor on January 28th, 1793, and held this office till April 14th, 1801, a month after the termination of Mr. Pitt's first administration. He was created Earl of Rosslyn, April 21st, 1801. He died January 2nd, 1805, and was buried in the Crypt of St. Paul's. He possessed undoubtedly a most acute mind. The opinion he expressed in *Lickbarrow v. Mason*, received, after the lapse of a hundred years, the final sanction of the House of Lords, and his statement of the law secured for Mr. Bradlaugh a judgment in the action for maintenance which he brought against Mr. Newdegate.

In the seventeenth century there were fourteen Lord Chancellors and Lord Keepers, of whom *seven* were members of the Inner Temple, and in the eighteenth century there were thirteen Lord Chancellors and Lord Keepers, of whom *nine* were members of our society. Only two, Lord Cowper and Lord Hardwicke, were members of the Middle Temple. Lord Chancellor Charles Yorke was

entered at the Middle Temple in his fourteenth year, but before he began to keep terms, he was transferred to the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn. He died three days after he had been sworn in as Chancellor before the Privy Council. The other member of Lincoln's Inn was Bathurst, Earl of Apsley, whose name is not worthy to be placed in any list of illustrious men. Thus, during the whole of the eighteenth century, the students of Lincoln's Inn left no mark on the office of Lord Chancellor. Not a student of Gray's Inn even held it.

From the resignation of Wedderburn in 1801, no member of this house reached the high office of Lord Chancellor until the year 1850, when Sir Thomas Wilde was appointed to succeed Lord Cottenham, Lord John Russell being then at the head of affairs. Wilde was called to the Bar, February 7th, 1817, after having been in practice as an attorney for twelve years. He was made Solicitor-General, February 9th, 1840, and in the summer of 1841, for two months he filled the office of Attorney-General. In 1846 he was again appointed to the office of Attorney-General, but having held it for three or four days he was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, vacant by the death of Sir Nicolas Tindal. On July 15th, 1850, Wilde was appointed Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, and was created Baron Truro, of Bowes, in Middlesex. He held the office until February, 1852, and died on November 11th, 1855, a man remarkable through life for his ceaseless and indefatigable exertions as an advocate, and for the integrity with which he discharged every duty.

The next member of the Inner Temple who held the office of Lord High Chancellor was Sir Frederick Thesiger, called to the Bar by this society May, 1824. He was appointed Solicitor-General in 1844, and Attorney-General in 1845. He held the office of Lord Chancellor twice—from February 1858, to June 1859, and from July 1866, to February 1868. He was remarkable for his graceful diction, fascinating manner and clear presentation of his case to the Court. The office of Lord Chancellor is now held by Lord Halsbury. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1850, was appointed Solicitor-General 1875, and chosen Treasurer of this house 1881. He was created Lord Chancellor and Baron Halsbury, June 1885. He held the office for the second time from July 1886, to August 1892, and was appointed Lord Chancellor for the third time in June, 1895. Lord Lyndhurst is the only other layman who was thrice appointed to the office of Lord Chancellor.

Most of the Masters of the Rolls in early times, like the

Chancellors, were men in holy orders. The first layman who held the office of Master of the Rolls was apparently Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex. There does not appear to be any evidence of his being a member of any Inn of Court. The first Master of the Rolls who was a member of any Inn of Court appears to be Christopher Halls, who was a member of Gray's Inn. He was appointed to the office of the Master of the Rolls in succession to Thomas Cromwell on July 10th, 1636. The first member of the Inner Temple appointed to the office of Master of the Rolls was John Beaumont, who filled the office of Reader to the Society on two occasions, and was elected treasurer in 1547. On December 12th, 1550, he was appointed to the Mastership of the Rolls. Unfortunately, like some others, he brought disgrace on the society. He was put in prison for forging a deed purporting to be executed by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. Beaumont was also charged with peculations to a large amount.

The next member of this house who held the office of Master of the Rolls was Nicholas Hare. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, and became Reader in 1532. On April 28th, 1540, he was elected Speaker of the House of Commons, and on September 18th, 1553, was appointed Master of the Rolls.

The next member of this house on whom the office was conferred was Sir Julius Cæsar. He was the eldest son of Cæsar Adelmore, who took the degree of Doctor in Medicine in Padua and came to England to practise in 1550. Charles, his eldest son, was born at Tottenham and enjoyed Royal patronage from his infancy. He received the name of Julius Cæsar and seems to have very early substituted it for that of his ancestors. He was admitted a member of the Inner Temple in the year 1580. In 1584 he was appointed a judge of the Admiralty Court at the age of 27. He was a Doctor of Civil Law both at Paris and Oxford, and was admitted in October 1588, to be one of the Masters in Chancery. On April 11th, 1606, the important office of Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer was conferred upon him, and on September 13th, 1614, he was sworn into the office of Master of the Rolls. He held this office for a period of more than twenty-one years. On March 30th, 1639, his son Sir Charles Cæsar was appointed to the Mastership of the Rolls, paying to King Charles I. for that high and profitable place no less than £15,000, with a promise of a loan of £2,000 more when the King went to meet what he was pleased to call his rebellious Scottish army. Cæsar was appointed a Master in Chancery in 1615, and died in 1642.

The next member of this house to hold the office of Master of the Rolls was Sir John Trevor, of whom I have already spoken. He was appointed October 20th, 1685, and held the office till July, 1717.

The next member of this house who held the office was William Fortescue, lineally descended from the celebrated Sir John Fortescue. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple 1715. He was made a Baron of the Exchequer February 9th, 1736. On April 7th, 1738, he was removed to the Common Pleas. He was appointed to the Mastership of the Rolls November 5th, 1741, and held the office until his death on December 15th, 1749. He will always be remembered as the intimate friend of Alexander Pope.

On January 16th, 1836, after a period of 87 years, during which no member of this house occupied the position of Master of the Rolls, Lord Langdale was appointed to that office.

Henry Bickersteth was called to the Bar by this honourable society on November 22nd, 1811. He made but little progress at the outset of his career, and thought of giving up his profession rather than put his father to any more expense. Business, however, greatly increased. He obtained a very large and extensive practice, confining himself at length to the Court of the Master of the Rolls. It is said that he refused to break his resolution to practise only at the Rolls, though he was offered a fee of three thousand guineas to go into the Court of Exchequer in the case of *Small v. Attwood*. He declined the office of Baron of the Exchequer, and that of Solicitor-General. In December 1835 he was appointed by Lord Melbourne to the office of Master of the Rolls, and on the following January he was created Baron Langdale of Langdale, in the county of Westmoreland. He declined the office of Lord Chancellor on the death of Lord Cottenham in the year 1850. He acted for a short time as Speaker of the House of Lords, and was one of the Commissioners of the Great Seal until the appointment of Lord Truro.

Our Inn claims one of the most distinguished Masters of Equity jurisprudence, who held no judicial office in England. He filled however many offices with great distinction. John Mitford was called to the Bar 1777. He was made Solicitor-General in 1793, and Attorney-General 1799. He became Speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801, and was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1802. He is known to all Equity lawyers by his great work on Equity pleading, which, until recent reforms, was the guide of nearly all practitioners in the Court of Chancery.

Sir George Markham Giffard is the only member of this Inn who held the office of Vice-Chancellor. To the Court of Appeal in Chancery, created by the Act of 1851, this house supplied three most distinguished members. The first was John Rolt. He was called to the Bar in 1837, obtaining a silk gown in 1846. He was appointed Attorney-General, 1866, and Lord Justice of Appeal, July, 1867. Illness compelled him to resign in February, 1868, and he died, June 6th, 1871.

The next illustrious member of the Appellate Court in Chancery, and a member of this house, was Sir George Markham Giffard. He, in his day, was regarded as the most learned of Equity lawyers. He was called to the Bar in 1840, and appointed Vice-Chancellor, March, 1868, and created Lord Justice of Appeal, January, 1869. He died July 18th, 1870. Speaking of him, Lord Justice James said, "He was not only a great lawyer and a great advocate, but every inch an English gentleman."

The third great and distinguished lawyer who sat in the Appellate Court in Chancery and who was a member of this house, was George Mellish, remarkable for his mastery of the principles of the Common Law, and a clear and simple manner of presenting them. He was called to the Bar by this house on June 9th, 1848. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1861, and from that time appeared in the most important cases in the Common Law Courts until he was at length appointed Lord Justice of Appeal in Chancery on August 4th, 1870. He died June 15th, 1877.

The Inner Temple, notwithstanding the great number of Lord Chancellors whose names are found upon its rolls, has ever been the home of the common law, some of its members who were most distinguished for the mastery of its provisions never having attained to any judicial office. It is worth while remembering, that it is one hundred and seventy-nine years since a *student* of this house, not having been previously a student of any other Inn of Court, was appointed to the office of Chief Justice of England, the last student who was so appointed being John Pratt, remembered chiefly by reason of his being the father of Lord Chancellor Camden. During these one hundred and seventy-nine years, three members of the Inn have held the office of Chief Justice of England, namely, William Lee, Edward Law, and Charles Abbott.

With the exception, therefore, of John Pratt, William Lee, Edward Law, and Charles Abbott, all the Chief Justices of England who were members of this house are found prior to the

close of the 17th century. In this period, however, we have many distinguished occupants of that high office.

The first person who filled the office of Chief Justice, and who was a student of this house, and of whom we can speak with certainty (for Sir William Gascoyne is claimed by Gray's Inn, the Middle Temple, and on the authority of Fuller, by the Inner Temple), is Thomas Bromley. He became Reader of the Inner Temple in the autumn of 1532. In November, 1544, he was appointed a Judge of the Queen's Bench, and was raised by Queen Mary to the Chief Justiceship on October 4th, 1553. He is remembered as being one of the executors of the will of King Henry VIII. He presided, in the first year of the reign of Mary, at the trial of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, who was charged with being engaged in the rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyat. The accused, who defended himself with great courage and learning, was acquitted. The jury acted with equal courage, and were shamefully punished.

Now we come perhaps to the most illustrious member of this house, whose acute intellect, powerful memory, untiring industry, the variety of offices he held, his courage in asserting the independence of the judges, his bold and daring efforts to establish the rights and privileges of the citizen, have made him the greatest figure this house presents. His writings, his reports and judicial decisions, his independence as a judge should secure him lasting esteem. Persons exercising judicial functions might be the better for thinking constantly of what he was in his great office.

Edward Coke was born on February 1st, 1552. He was admitted a student of Clifford's Inn on January 21st, 1571, and on April 24th, 1572, he was entered of the Inner Temple. He was called to the Bar on April 20th, 1578. He was treasurer of the House, 1595-6; Speaker of the House of Commons, 1592; Attorney-General, 1594. He was Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1606, and Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1613, from whence he was removed by reason of his being too independent for the King. Lord Campbell says, "Nothing could be more creditable to the integrity of Lord Coke than the wretched inventions which were resorted to as pretexts for disgracing him." On November 16th, 1616, he received his supersedeas. He devoted himself thenceforth to the restitution of the rights and privileges of the subject which James I. had violated, and by his constitutional learning and great courage, the petition of right presented by the Commons of England, became law. During this period, also, he proved himself the greatest

expounder of the Common Law of England by giving to the world his commentary on Lyttelton, which had been his laborious occupation for many years.

The next Chief Justice who was a student of our house never sat in Westminster Hall. He lived in troublous times, was the great advocate of the prerogative of the Crown, and a supporter of Charles I. in his contentions against the Parliament. Robert Heath started, says Campbell, as a high prerogative lawyer, and a high prerogative lawyer he continued to the day of his death. He was called to the Bar in 1607, was appointed Recorder of London November 10th, 1618, and was appointed Solicitor-General on January 22nd, 1621. On October 31st, 1625, soon after the death of James I., he was promoted to the Attorney-Generalship. He was the advocate for the Crown in the support of its most violent proceedings, displaying much learning and ingenuity. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas on October 26th, 1631. He was discharged from that office without any cause being assigned on September 14th, 1633. In the next term, after he retired from the Bench, he resumed his practice at the Bar as Junior Serjeant. He continued at the Bar until he was replaced as a Judge of the King's Bench, January 23rd, 1641. He joined the King at York in June, 1642, and in the year 1643 he was appointed by the King Chief Justice of the King's Bench. It is interesting to note that in a letter of July 4th, 1643, Charles authorised him in the summer assizes "to forbear those places whither you conceive you may not goe with convenient safety." He died at Calais on August 30th, 1649.

The next Chief Justice who was a member of our house was appointed first by the Commonwealth of England, and afterwards by the great Protector. Henry Rolle was born in Devonshire 1589, and was admitted a student of this house November, 1608. The date of his call to the Bar cannot be ascertained but he was called to the Bench in 1633. He was appointed by the Parliament of England judge of the King's Bench, October 28th, 1645, and Chief Justice of the Upper Bench, October 12th, 1648, from which he retired on June 7th, 1655. He died in 1656. He is remembered for his profound learning, industry and integrity, and left a book which was frequently referred to when I was called to the Bar. His work is styled "An abridgment of several cases and resolutions of the Common Law." Lord Campbell speaks of it as a wonderful digest, showing not only stupendous industry, but a fine intellectual head for legal divisions and distinctions.

The first Chief Justice of England after the Restoration was a member of this house. Lord Campbell states that his obscurity testified to the perplexity into which the Government had been thrown, in making a decent choice. Robert Foster was called to the Bar in June, 1610, and in June, 1640, raised to the Bench as a judge of the Common Pleas, and Chief Justice in May, 1660, and within five months of that time was advanced to the Chief Justiceship of the King's Bench. He was in his judicial capacity a party to the deep disgrace of sentencing Sir Harry Vane to death for acts of obedience to the supreme authority within the realm.

The next Chief Justice who belonged to our house was John Kelyng. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, February 20th, 1632, was appointed a Judge of the King's Bench June 18th, 1663, and Chief Justice November 21st, 1665. It is said that he prepared the Act of Uniformity which became law in 1662, and led to the ejection of 2,000 ministers from the livings of the Church of England. He was also one of the Counsel of the Crown on the trial of Sir Harry Vane.

The next possessor of the seat of the Chief Justice presents a most remarkable career. Francis Pemberton was called to the Bar by this honorable society in November, 1654. His early years were spent in dissipation, and he was ultimately shut up in prison for debt and lay many years in jail. During his confinement he closely applied himself to the study of the law in order to assist his fellow prisoners, and according to one saying, he came out of jail a sharper at the law; and according to another, he came out one of the ablest men of his profession. In 1670 he became a Becher of this Inn, and also Lent Reader in 1674, on which occasion it is said he kept a "noble table there." He was ordered into custody by the House of Commons for appearing as Counsel at the Bar of the House of Lords in a case in which the Commons asserted the Lords had no jurisdiction. He was afterwards released by the Lords, and was retaken by the Speaker himself in the middle of Westminster Hall. On May 1st, 1679, he was created a Judge of the King's Bench through the influence of Scroggs. He was removed from that office, and received his discharge on February 16th, 1680. He returned to his practice at the Bar, and in about a year's time he was chosen to displace Scroggs in the office of Chief Justice of the King's Bench. His patent is dated April 11th, 1681. He was removed from the office of Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and appointed Chief Justice of the

Common Pleas, on January 22nd, 1683. He was dismissed from the office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, on September 7th following, and his name was struck out of the list of Privy Councillors in the following month. He then, for a second time, returned to the Bar and practised with considerable success as a sergeant till his death in 1697. He presided at the trial of Lord William Russell, and was the leading Counsel in the defence of the seven bishops.

The next Chief Justice of England who was a member of our Inn was Sir George Jeffreys, of whom I have already spoken under the head of Lord Chancellors. The next member of our Inn who became Chief Justice was Robert Wright. He was a close friend of Sir George Jeffreys, and in October 30th, 1684, he was appointed Baron of the Exchequer. He was on the brink of ruin when this judgeship was obtained for him. On the King mentioning his name to Lord Keeper North, he said that Wright was a dunce and no lawyer, of no truth or honesty, and not worth a groat, having spent all his estate in debunched living. He accompanied Jeffreys on the Bloody Western Assize, but immediately after his return was created a judge of the King's Bench, and was promoted to the office of the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas on April 16th, 1687. He held the office only five days. During this time a case came before Chief Justice Herbert, in which he gave an opinion adverse to the Crown. He was removed to the Common Pleas to make way for Sir Robert Wright, who was willing to forward the King's designs. Wright was appointed Chief Justice on April 21st, 1687. He presided at the trial of the seven Bishops. He died in Newgate on May 18th, 1689.

It is delightful to remember that the next Chief Justice, although he did not belong to our house, was the Lord Chief Justice Holt, a man whose elevation to the Bench was only possible because the Stuarts had been driven from the throne. The first member of this house to occupy the station of Chief Justice of England, in the eighteenth century, was Sir John Pratt. He was called to the Bar February 12th, 1681. He was made a judge of the King's Bench, November 22nd, 1714, and on May 15th, 1718, he took his seat as Chief Justice. He had the misfortune to be praised as "a Great Sessions Lawyer," but to have the happy distinction of being father of Lord Camden. The next member of this house who was appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench was Sir William Lee. As a student he entered the Middle Temple, July, 1708, but was called to the Bar by this

Inn, February 1717. He was made a judge of the King's Bench, June 1730, and Lord Chief Justice in June, 1737. He died on April 8th, 1754. The next member of this house to fill the high office of Chief Justice was one who stands among the greatest of the Common Law judges. Edward Law was admitted as a student at Lincoln's Inn in 1769, and called to the Bar by that house in 1780. He became a member of the Inner Temple, 1783. He was the leading counsel in the defence of Warren Hastings. He was Treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1795. On February 14th, 1801, he was appointed Attorney-General at the instance of Mr. Addington, and on April 12th, 1802, was made Chief Justice. On his elevation to the Bench he was created Baron Ellenborough. He is the last Chief Justice who has been a member of the Cabinet. The successor of Lord Ellenborough was also a member of this house. Charles Abbott entered the Middle Temple, November 16th, 1787. On May 8th, 1793, he was admitted to the Society of the Inner Temple, and called to the Bar February 15th, 1796. He was appointed a judge of the Common Pleas on January 24th, 1816, but on May 3rd he was appointed a judge of the Court of King's Bench at the urgent solicitation of Lord Ellenborough, on whose resignation, Abbott was raised to the Chief Justiceship on November 4th, 1818. On April 30th, 1827, he was created Baron Tenterden, and died November 4th, 1832.

The office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas has been filled on many occasions by students of this house, and in some instances with peculiar lustre. The earliest instance we have on record of a student of this house occupying the post of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas is Thomas Frowyk. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, and he obtained such distinction that he was only forty years old at the time of his death, having presided as Chief Justice for four years. He was raised to the office of Chief Justice on September 30th, 1502. The next member of this house who occupied the office was John Baldwin, who was thrice appointed Reader of the House. He was one of the persons assigned in 1529 to aid Cardinal Wolsey in hearing cases in the Court of Chancery. In April, 1535, he was raised to the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas. He acted as a Commissioner on the trials of Sir Thomas More and Bishop Fisher. He died September 22nd, 1545, having filled the office of Chief Justice for ten years.

Edmund Anderson, whose name I have already mentioned, was admitted to the Inner Temple in June, 1550. He was twice Reader, and as assistant judge on the Western Circuit he

conducted the trial of Edmund Champion and others for high treason, and he was raised to the office of Chief Justice on May 2nd, 1582. He held the office for 23 years. His successor was Francis Gawdy. He was admitted a member of the Inner Temple in 1549. He was appointed a judge of the Queen's Bench November 25th, 1588, and on August 26th, 1605, he was raised to the rank of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. His successor was Edward Coke. Robert Heath, a member of this house, became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas on October 26th, 1631. The particulars of his career were given when speaking of him as one of the members of our Inn who had obtained the office of Chief Justice of the King's Bench. On January 27th, 1640, Edward Lyttelton was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, of whom particulars have been given when speaking of him as Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Orlando Bridgeman was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. Particulars also of his career have been given. He was succeeded in his high office by a great lawyer, of whom all men may well be proud. By his decision in Bushell's case it became settled law that a jury cannot lawfully be punished by fine, imprisonment, or otherwise for finding against the evidence, or against the direction of the judge. Speaking in that case of certain plausibilities urged before him, he said, "We must take off the veil and colour of words, which make a show of being something, and in truth are nothing." His great and masterly judgment will teach men how to take off "the veil and colour of words." John Vaughan was called to the Bar by this society in 1621. He was appointed to the high office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, May 23rd, 1668. He died suddenly on December 10th, 1674, and was buried in the Temple Church. He was a profoundly learned man and was one of the executors of the will of John Selden. On the hearing of a case in which some ecclesiastical points were involved, the Canon Law was cited; two of the judges interrupted the argument, stating they had no skill in that law and prided themselves on that account, on which the Chief Justice exclaimed, "Good God! What sin have I committed that I should sit on this Bench between two judges who boast in open court of their ignorance of the Canon Law?"

On January 22nd, 1683, Francis Pemberton, a member of this house, was appointed to the office of Chief Justice, of whom I have already spoken. On April 16th, 1687, Robert Wright was appointed to the office; his name has been mentioned



under the head of those who filled the office of Chief Justice of the King's Bench. The first Chief Justice of the Common Pleas after the Revolution was Henry Pollexfen, who was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1658. He was one of the leading counsel for William Lord Russell, and defended as counsel the charters of the City of London. It is unfortunate for his reputation that he was selected by Chief Justice Jeffreys to undertake many of the prosecutions in the Bloody Western Assize, and particularly that he was the counsel on the prosecution of Alice Lisle. He was one of the counsel for the seven bishops, and was the means of procuring the retainer of Mr. Somers. In February, 1689, he was appointed Attorney-General, and was made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas on May 4th in the same year.

Thomas Trevor, a student of this house, was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, June 28th, 1701, having filled the offices of Solicitor- and Attorney-General. He was called to the Bar November 28th, 1680. He presided in the Court of Common Pleas through the whole reign of Queen Anne, and in December 31st, 1711, he was raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Trevor, being one of the twelve peers whom Queen Anne by an unusual exercise of her prerogative created in one day to secure a majority for the peace. He is the first Chief Justice of the Common Pleas who was ennobled while holding that office. He was removed from his position October 14th, 1714. He lived sixteen years after resigning the office, and became in 1726 Lord Privy Seal, and on May 8th, 1730, he was raised to the high office of Lord President of the Council. He was succeeded by a member of this house, Peter King, whose name has been already mentioned when speaking of those members of the house who have held the office of Lord Chancellor.

The next was Thomas Reeve. He was a student of this house, but subsequently transferred himself to the Middle Temple. He was made a King's Counsel within five years of his call. He appeared on behalf of the Crown on the bill of attainder against Bishop Atterbury. In April, 1733, he was constituted a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and subsequently placed at its head in January, 1736.

The next member of this house who held the office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas was Charles Pratt, whose name has been mentioned in the list of Lord Chancellors. He was succeeded by John Eardly Wilmot, a man of such retiring disposition that he refused the highest offices, and only with

great reluctance, and under considerable pressure from his friends, accepted the office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas August 21st, 1766. He was called to the Bar in 1732. He was appointed Judge of the King's Bench November 11th, 1755. On refusing the office of Lord Keeper he said, "I will not give up the peace of my mind to any earthly consideration whatever. Bread and water are nectar and ambrosia when contrasted with the supremacy of a court of justice."

On June 14th, 1780, Alexander Wedderburn was appointed Chief Justice, of whom I have spoken already.

After the resignation of the position of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas by Lord Loughborough, fifty-three years elapsed before any member of this house again held that high office, when, on the death of Sir Nicolas Tindal, Sir Thomas Wilde was appointed, of whose career also an account has been given when mentioning the Lord Chancellors.

The office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas has been abolished, and it was well that the last member of this house to occupy the office should be a man of pure and noble life, of great legal learning and unrivalled powers of discrimination. It is scarcely necessary to do more than mention his name, for Sir William Erle still lives in the affectionate esteem of the members of this house. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1819, but admitted to the membership of the Inner Temple in 1822. He became a Master of the Bench in 1834, and the Treasurer of this Society in 1844. He was appointed a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in November, 1844, and made a judge of the Queen's Bench in October, 1846, and Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in June, 1859. He died January 28th, 1880. When in the Queen's Bench it was his lot to differ on many occasions from the judgments of his brethren, but on examination it will be found that the dissentient judgments of Mr. Justice Erle frequently received the approval of the other Courts and of the Court of Appeal.

The first person, a member of this house, to hold the office of Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer was Humphrey Starkey. In 1471 he was elected Recorder of London and was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer June 15th, 1483, only 10 days before the dethronement of Edward V., so that he was obliged to have a new patent from Richard III., which he received on the 26th of the same month.

After a lapse of 67 years, during which no student of the Inner Temple became Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the office was vested in Henry Bradshaw. He was twice Reader to the

Society. In 1540 he was appointed Solicitor-General, and Attorney-General in 1545, and appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer May 21st, 1552, and witnessed the seal of King Edward VI. to the instrument, settling the Crown on Lady Jane Grey. He died three weeks after the accession of Queen Mary, July 27th, 1553. He was succeeded in his office by David Brooke. He was twice Reader of the Inner Temple and also its Treasurer, and was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer on September 1st, 1553. He died about the year 1557. On being asked what was the best way to thrive he answered, "Never do anything by another that you can do by yourself."

Roger Manwood was called to the bar by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple prior to 1555. On October 14th, 1572, he was made a judge of the Common Pleas, and was promoted to the office of Chief Baron of the Exchequer on November 17th, 1578. He was one of the Commissioners for the trial of the Queen of Scots. He died December 14th, 1592. On June 25th, 1607, Laurence Tanfield, a student of this House, was raised to the office of Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He presided over that court until his death, 1625, a period of eighteen years. He presided with much credit, integrity, independence, and learning. As a judge he was engaged in the case of the *post-nati* and on the trial of the Countess of Somerset for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury. In his honour "Bradshaw's Rents" became Tanfield Conrt. He was succeeded by John Walter, who was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1590. He was Attorney-General to Prince Charles; was knighted May 18th, 1619; he held this office, when on a brief being delivered to him against Sir Edward Coke, then prosecuted by the court, he had the courage to decline it, saying, "Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth when I open it against Sir Edward Coke." He was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer May 12th, 1625. On disagreeing with the rest of the judges as to the legality of proceeding criminally against a member of Parliament for acts done in the House of Commons he received his prohibition to sit in court in the beginning of Michaelmas Term 1630. In 18 days thereafter he was dead. Judge Croke described him as a profoundly learned man and of great integrity and courage. In 1644 at Oxford Richard Lane was made Chief Baron. His name has been already mentioned when speaking of the Lord Chancellors. On October 12th, 1648, John Wilde was made Chief Baron of the Exchequer by the Parliament of England. His name has been mentioned as one of the Commissioners of

the Great Seal. On June 1st, 1660, Orlando Bridgeman was appointed Chief Baron. He was succeeded on November 7th, 1660, by the illustrious Matthew Hale, an ornament of the great and noble house of Lincoln's Inn. The next member of our Inn to hold the office of Chief Baron was Edward Ward, called to the Bar by the Inner Temple 1670. He was retained by Lord William Russell to argue certain points of law which might arise on his trial. At the Revolution he declined a judgeship which was offered to him, but on March 30th, 1693, he was appointed Attorney-General, and on June 8th, 1695, he was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He held the office until within 15 days of the death of Queen Anne. You may form some opinion of the force and vigour of this lawyer when it is remembered that Jeffreys' brow-beating did not daunt him. He was succeeded in his office by Samuel Dodd, also a member of this house. He was one of the counsel who defended Dr. Sacheverell, obtaining great popularity by reason of his exertions. He was appointed Lord Chief Baron November 22nd, 1714.

The next person who was called to the Bar by this Society and became Chief Baron of the Exchequer was Jeffrey Gilbert, a man whose writings are still consulted for an accurate statement of the principles of the Common Law. He was called to the Bar in 1698. On November 8th he was appointed one of the judges of the King's Bench in Ireland. On June 16th, 1715, he was created Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Ireland. He was made a Baron of the English Exchequer in May, 1722, and on June 1st, 1725, he was appointed Lord Chief Baron, which seat he only occupied for 15 months. Speaking of his book on the law of evidence, Blackstone describes it as a work which it is impossible to abstract or abridge without losing some beauty and destroying the chain of the whole. He was succeeded by Thomas Pengelly, who was called to the Bar by this Society in November, 1700, and was one of the managers of the impeachment of the Earl of Macclesfield. On October 16th, 1726, he was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

The next member of this house who held the office of Chief Baron was Thomas Parker, the near relation of Lord Macclesfield. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple June, 1724, and on July 7th, 1738, he was raised to the bench as a Baron of the Exchequer. From this court he was removed in April, 1740, to the Common Pleas where he remained till November 29th, 1742, when he was advanced to the office of Lord Chief Baron. He presided in the Exchequer for 30 years. He

lived for 12 years after his retirement, dying on December 29th, 1784, at the age of 89. During his retirement he published a volume of Reports of Revenue Cases from 1743 to 1767. Lord Mansfield, noticing the frequent absence of his successor, Sir Sidney Smythe, from infirmities, observed "the new Chief Baron should resign in favour of his predecessor." The successor of Thomas Parker was also a member of this house, Sidney Stafford Smythe. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in February, 1728, and was promoted to a judgeship in the court of Exchequer in June, 1750. He was a puisne Baron for more than 22 years and was appointed twice a Commissioner of the Great Seal. He was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer October 28th, 1772. At the expiration of five years he was obliged to resign through ill-health. On April 22nd, 1817, Richard Richards was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He was called to the Bar by this house in 1780. He was appointed a Baron of the Exchequer February 14th, 1814.

On December 24th, 1834, one of the most distinguished advocates in all kinds of causes, and perhaps one who gained more verdicts than any man who ever practised at the English Bar, was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer. James Scarlett was born in Jamaica in 1769, and called to the Bar by this Society July 28th, 1791. He soon acquired a large and extensive practice, but did not receive a silk gown until he had been five-and-twenty years at the Bar. It is said that his address to a Jury consisted of an easy, gentle and colloquial appeal to their understanding, heightened by his handsome presence, his musical voice, and pleasing countenance. He was Attorney-General to Mr. Canning on the formation of his administration in April, 1827. He was appointed on December 24th, 1834, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and in the next month he was raised to the peerage as Baron Abinger. He was struck with paralysis at Bury St. Edmunds, April, 1844, and in five days his life was terminated. On his death he was succeeded by another member of this house, Frederick Pollock. He was called to the Bar in November, 1807, was Attorney-General in 1834, and again in 1841, and appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer in April, 1844. After fulfilling the duties of that office for more than twenty-two years, he retired on July 18th, 1866, and died August 28th, 1870. His son, Mr. Baron Pollock, still remains amongst us to keep alive the memory of his father's ability, integrity, and industry.

Of all the members of this house who have held office as puisne judges of the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer, it would be impossible to speak in the time at my command. This at least may be said, that some of the most distinguished puisne judges, who have rivalled the occupants of higher stations both in learning and in clear application of legal principles, have been members of the Inner Temple. In the present century their names are many. When a student of this house, I used to recount with pride the names of Mr. Justice Cresswell, Sir James Shaw Willes, Mr. Justice Byles, Mr. Baron Bramwell, Mr. Justice Blackburn, Baron Park, Lord Wensleydale, and Mr. Baron Channell, father of one of our most distinguished members.

James Parke was called to the Bar by the Society of the Inner Temple in Easter Term, 1813. He assisted the officers of the Crown in conducting the case against Queen Caroline, and without having ever had a silk gown and without any political interest, he was chosen on November 28th, 1828, a judge of the Court of King's Bench, and in 1834 he was appointed Baron of the Exchequer, a post that he occupied until December, 1855. On his resignation he was raised to the peerage for life as Lord Wensleydale. This promotion gave rise to a long and brilliant discussion in the House of Lords as to the power of the Crown to create a peer for life. The evils that were to follow from such an appointment filled many pages of prophecy. At present several peers sit for life without the slightest injury to the Second Chamber or any loss to the community. Subsequently Parke was created Baron Wensleydale, with the ordinary limitation of the title to the heirs male of his body.

George Bramwell was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in May, 1838. Remarkable for his great good sense, quickness of apprehension and power of happy illustration and independent thinking, he was raised to the Bench in January, 1856, as a Baron of the Exchequer. He was created a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1876, from which office he retired in 1881. He was created a peer on the nomination of Mr. Gladstone in 1882. James Shaw Willes, one of the most distinguished ornaments of this house, was called to the Bar by this Society on June 12th, 1840. He was raised to the Bench, July 3rd, 1855, as a justice of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1850 he was selected as a Common Law Commissioner, and to his labours are chiefly due the Common Law Procedure Acts of 1852, 1854, and 1860, to which if there had been added some provisions extending the

jurisdiction of the Common Law Courts in matters of injunction and of equitable relief, together with the right of counter-claim, many think we should have had the most efficient system for the administration of the Common Law of the Realm. Sir Cresswell Cresswell was called to the Bar by this house in 1819. In 1841 he was returned to Parliament for the borough of Liverpool. He was appointed a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in January, 1842. In 1858 he was appointed first judge of the Court for Probate and Matrimonial causes, created by the Act of 1857 which Sir Richard Bethell conducted through the House of Commons with such great distinction. He filled this post with conspicuous ability until his death in July, 1863.

John Barnard Byles was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple November, 1831. In 1857 he was promoted to the dignity of Queen's Serjeant, and was marked as an advocate by singular wariness and caution. He enjoyed a large and extensive practice. He was a Tory and an opponent, both by speech and book, of the agitation for the Repeal of the Corn Laws. On hearing of his book, Mr. Cobden exclaimed, "Now hath the Lord delivered them into our hands." Lord Cranworth, laying aside all political feeling and all party considerations, appointed Serjeant Byles to fill the seat of the Common Pleas, vacant by the removal of Sir C. Cresswell.

William Fry Channell was called to the Bar by this Society in May, 1827. On February 12th, 1857, he was created one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer. He was a sound lawyer, and I seldom passed a day in his presence without receiving instruction, which I trust fitted me for the better discharge of the duties of my profession.

Colin Blackburn, a name never to be mentioned by me without affectionate regard, was called to the Bar by the Society of the Inner Temple, and was, to the surprise of the general public, who were ignorant of his great legal capacity and mental power, appointed a judge of the Queen's Bench in June, 1859, on the accession of Sir William Erle to the Court of Common Pleas as Chief Justice. Sir Colin Blackburn was afterwards created one of the Lords of Appeal. His judgments in the House of Lords deserve the constant and most careful study of all who are desirous not only of obtaining particular knowledge, but a general power of applying legal principles.

The name of Alfred Thesiger must not be passed over. His early death, ere he had gained the maturity of his powers, though not too soon for his reputation, was a loss to the mem-

bers of our profession, and to all who might be supplicants for justice in our courts. He was called to the Bar by this house 1862, and appointed Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales 1877. In the same year he was created Lord Justice of Appeal, and died October 20th, 1880, at the early age of 42.

Neither must Edward Hall Alderson be forgotten. After having obtained the highest honours at the University of Cambridge he was in the year 1811 called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, and although he never had a silk gown, nor the advantage of a seat in Parliament, he was raised to the Bench as a Justice of the Common Pleas in November, 1830. In February, 1834, he was appointed a Baron of the Exchequer and in that court performed duties both on the Equitable and Common Law side till 1841, when the Equitable jurisdiction of that Court was taken away. He died on January 27th, 1857. No recital of the famous sons of this house would be complete which did not contain the name of Francis Buller, most eminent of judges at Nisi Prius. He himself published an admirable digest of the law at Nisi Prius. He was called to the Bar by this honourable society in Easter term, 1772. Whilst at the Bar he was in almost every case of importance, and his great qualities were soon recognised by Lord Mansfield. On May 6th, 1778, at the age of 32, he was created a judge of the King's Bench. He presided in that Court during the last two years of Lord Mansfield's Chief Justiceship. It is said that Lord Mansfield delayed his resignation in order that Buller might be appointed his successor. He remained under Lord Kenyon for six years, and in Easter, 1794, was removed into the Common Pleas. Whilst arranging for his retirement from judicial work altogether, he was removed by death at the early age of 54.

I may be pardoned for mentioning among the puisne judges of the last century, Soulden Lawrence, a man of great learning, and remarkable for his respectful treatment of the Bar. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, June, 1784, and in three years he was created a serjeant. In March, 1794, he was raised to the bench as a Justice of the Common Pleas, but in the course of a month exchanged his seat with Mr. Justice Buller, for one in the Court of King's Bench.

I must not omit the name of Dr. Lushington, who was greatly distinguished as a Judge of the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty Courts. He was called to the Bar by this society in 1806. He was one of the counsel in the defence of Queen Caroline.

Perhaps, after all, the names of some of the members of our Inn who never held any judicial office will inspire as much reverence and regard as any of the names I have mentioned. John Perkins, the author of "Perkins' Profitable Book," was a member of this house, and Christopher St. Germain, the author of the work entitled "Doctor and Student" was a student of the Inner Temple. Many early poets were members of this society. William Browne, the author of "Britannia's Pastorals," Francis Beaumont, the dramatic writer of imperishable fame; Sir Edward Dyer, the author of the beautiful poem, "My mind to me a kingdom is," were members of this house. William Browne was entered as a student in 1611 and the influence of his writings upon Milton can be clearly traced in "Lycidas" and "Comus." I must not forget that Lord Robert Dudley, the favourite of the Queen, known as the Earl of Leicester, courtier and statesman, was a member of this house. John Selden, whom Milton describes as the "chief of learned men throughout the land," was a member of this Inn. He was called to the Bar by this house in 1612. For many years he was a member of the House of Commons. In 1640 he represented the University of Oxford. He was appointed the keeper of the records of the Tower in August, 1645. He was one of the members of the House of Commons who held the Speaker down in the chair while Sir John Eliot moved his resolution on the grievances of the nation. For his part in this great act Selden suffered imprisonment. His works show his enormous learning and great industry.

The next name will secure the love of all true patriots.

"A Hampden, too, is thine illustrious House,
Wise, strenuous, firm, of unsubmitting soul,
Who stemmed the torrent of a downward age
To slavery prone."

He was admitted a member of this house in 1613. An industrious student, he became intimately acquainted with the law of Parliament and constitutional history, and early became one of the leaders of the Party in opposition to the Crown. He died in defence of his country's liberties, at Chalgrove Field, Oxfordshire, on Sunday morning, June 21st, 1643.

Edmund Prideaux, Attorney-General to the Commonwealth, and the Protector, was a member of this house. He was called to the Bar in 1603. He also filled the office of Postmaster-General. Heneage Finch, the second son of Lord Chancellor Nottingham, was a member of this House. He was Solicitor-

General from 1679 to 1686. He was one of the counsel engaged in the defence of the seven bishops. He was raised to the peerage by the title of the Earl of Aylesford, and was an intimate friend of Richard Baxter. He held the office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. George Grenville, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and who has the unenviable distinction of having introduced the Stamp Act, which led to difficulties with our American colonies, was called to the Bar by this house in 1735. He was raised to the bench of this Inn, 1763. He was the man of whom Dr. Johnson coarsely said, "if he got the Manilla Ransom, perhaps he could count it." Speaking of Grenville, Burke said, "With a masculine understanding, and a stout and resolute heart, he had an application undissipated and unwearied. He took public business, not as a duty which he was to fulfil, but as a pleasure he was to enjoy; and he seemed to have no delight out of this House, except in such things as some way related to the business that was to be done within it. He was bred to the law, which is, in my opinion, one of the first and noblest of human sciences—a science which does more to quicken and invigorate the understanding than all the other kinds of learning put together." George Grenville was also First Lord of the Treasury, from April 10th, 1763, to July 10th, 1765.

William Cowper, of gentle and retiring disposition, author of the "Task," poet of nature, and the greatest master of English prose, as it is seen in epistolary correspondence, was also a member of this honourable society, and Mason, too, a poet and the friend of Gray.

Sir William Follett, accomplished lawyer, powerful reasoner, and statesman, was a member of this house. He was called to the Bar 1824. He was Solicitor-General from December, 1834, to April, 1835, being 36 years of age at the time of his appointment. He was again Solicitor-General from September, 1841, till June, 1844. In that year he was appointed Attorney-General, and died June 28th, 1845. He lies buried in the Temple Church. At his funeral Sir Robert Peel, Lord Lyndhurst, and Sir James Graham were among the pall bearers. From his window close by, wasting with consumption, John William Smith, called to the Bar by this Society, one of the most distinguished writers on the Common Law, and one of its greatest masters in the discussion and application of its principles in court, witnessed the funeral procession, not unmindful that he too would soon be called hence. We recall with pleasure that the greatest writer on the English Constitution, and a man

who has weighed the great characters in our history in the steady balance of justice, was a member of this house, and a Master of the Bench—Henry Hallam. John Austin, also a member of this house, who attained to no legal honours, should ever be remembered as the greatest jurist of his time. Samuel Warren, writer and orator, was a member of this house, and a Master of the Bench. Serjeant Wilkins, who was remarkable for his intrepid defence of prisoners, a master of bold and daring language, was called to the Bar by this society. Nor should the names of John Arthur Roebuck, historian and politician, and of Serjeant Ballantine, greatly endowed, and a master of the art of cross-examination, be forgotten. It is a pleasure to mention as Masters of the Bench of this house, the names of Thomas Hughes, the author of “Tom Brown’s School Days,” and Sir George Rickards, lawyer and scholar. In Sir Harris Nicolas, this House possessed one of the greatest of antiquaries and genealogical writers. Nor must I forget to mention one, a member of this house, and Master of its Bench, little known to fame, and except by contemporaries forgotten ; but one whose learning and vast and accurate memory excited my admiration when I was a student. Nearly every morning after a business night at the Bench, he would come into the library to fortify himself as to some statement he had made, but from which his brethren had dissented. I shall not forget the pleasure he experienced when he found that his memory had not failed him. The first time I saw him was quite an apparition ; an aged man, feeble, wearing an old brown wig and rusty clothes, opening the library door and calling out, “Mr. Martin, I want the terms of Lord Chancellor Bacon’s will as to his leaving his name to his countrymen.” I learned from the librarian that the old bencher was Mr. Lee, to whose learning Lord Justice Knight Bruce frequently appealed when Mr. Lee happened to be sitting in court during an argument. A pious man of the school of Johnson, one morning when walking with him from the Temple Church, and when I was expecting some instruction in divine things, he said, “Young man, study ‘Coke upon Lyttelton,’ with Hargrave’s and Butler’s Notes. You will then be well equipped for your profession. Mind you read it constantly. Make it your Bible.”

But I cannot confine the society and fellowship of this house to its actual members. There are men of greatest attainments, noblest life, purest aims, so inseparably associated with the members of this society that I never see them apart. It is impossible to rest upon the great and distinguished members of

this Inn without at the same time resting upon some, equally distinguished, who are not directly connected with us. They afford a measure for determining the intellectual eminence, the noble character and worth of some of *our* number, and the maxim, "A man is known by the company he keeps," may be well applied. Christopher Hatton and Thomas Sackville introduce to us Edmund Spenser, of whom Milton speaks as "the sage and serious poet, Spenser," and declares that he is a better teacher of morality than Duns Scotus or Aquinas. Here, in the company of his brother, who was a member of this house, is seen Richard Burton, the author of "The Anatomy of Melancholy," the book of which Dr. Johnson said that it was the only one that ever took him out of bed two hours sooner than he wished to rise. I never think of John Selden without thinking of and seeing Ben Jonson, learned from the schools, to whose library Selden is often going to verify a quotation from some rare author. Nor should it ever be forgotten, in considering the greatest of our predecessors, that Ben Jonson dedicated his "Every Man Out of His Humour" "to the noblest nurseries of Humanity and Liberty in the Kingdom, the Inns of Court." Another figure, strangely different, is also connected with Selden. I always see him not only with Jonson, but also with Butler, the author of "Hudibras," who wrote in the service of Charles II., to find himself neglected and left without resource. When I look at Lord Chancellor Nottingham, I see him associated with his intimate friend, Ralph Cudworth, who dedicated to him "The Intellectual System of the Universe." With Peter, Lord King, comes his relative, John Locke, "the greatest master of taciturnity and passion and profoundest thinker." When I see Thomas Parker (Lord Macclesfield), I forget his sorrowful face, whilst he is in the loving companionship of Young, the author of "Night Thoughts." Talbot, Lord Chancellor, is more than ennobled by his two associates, with whom I ever see him. James Thomson, the author of "The Seasons," travelled with Lord Talbot's son in Italy, and mourned his early death in the opening verses of "Liberty." Lord Talbot made Thomson his Secretary of Briefs, and on his death, Thomson displayed in affectionate and beautiful verse the character of his patron. The other associate is a man whose friendship the Chancellor has enjoyed for many years. He is of reverend character and great self-distrust; an acute thinker and master of the art of reasoning from probabilities, an art which lawyers are constantly exercising. This man is Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham. He perpetuates the Chancellor's fame by dedicating to him his great

work, the "Analogy of Religion to the Constitution and Course of Nature." There is one member of our house whom I can scarcely discern because of the splendour which is cast upon him by his companion. I have not mentioned him before, because he is so insignificant, and so unworthy, and he adds nothing to the mass of glory which the members of this house have created by their exertions and their abilities. He must not, however, be forgotten, for Christopher Milton, who was a Bencher of this house, and was made a judge by James II., in order to accomplish the destruction of Constitutional liberty, brings with him his brother, John Milton, greatest of poets, noblest of prose writers, ardent lover of freedom, and who, at the cost of his sight, defended the people of England against slanders which Charles II. paid money to procure. Happily, in the coloured windows of our hall, a portrait of Milton may be seen, and I scarcely ever enter it without having a vision of this, to my mind, first and greatest of Englishmen. With William Fortescue, Master of the Rolls, there comes a weak and feeble frame, but a face expressive of a curious, prying and piercing intellect. It is Alexander Pope, the most intimate friend and associate of Fortescue. There, on the seats in the old hall, whereon I eat my terms, I see still the pale face of Mason, who was the intimate friend, and wrote the life of Gray. With him, therefore, another poet, the Author of 'the Elegy,' is added to our assembly. James Boswell was called to the English Bar by this society, and Dr. Samuel Johnson was his surety for the payment of his Commons. In our society are seen, side by side, the incomparable biographer and the greatest of moralists. This house possesses no portrait* of Charles James Fox, greatest parliamentary debater and master of the simplest language in which one man ever attempted to overcome the will and understanding of another. He is, however, inseparably connected with our body by his intimacy with Serjeant Heywood, a member of this house. Heywood supplied to Charles James Fox a large portion of the material which he worked up in his history of James II. Cut off, in the prime of life, without the opportunity of making to himself a name as a lawyer, Arthur Henry Hallam brings to our society Alfred Tennyson, purest and sweetest of poets, worthy

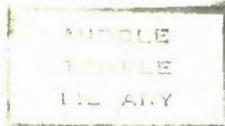
* In the Parliament Chamber of the Inner Temple is a fine portrait of William Pitt, who was called to the Bar by the honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

to take rank beside the greatest writers in our language. In our midst you can see the melancholy face of Charles Lamb, surrounded by the old Benchers of this Inn whose portraits he has left us. Nor do I ever think of the society and fellowship of this house without thinking of one who gently reformed the manners of his time, and left examples of composition which may well deserve nights and days being appropriated to their study, the essayist, poet, statesman, Addison. When he would select someone who should be well acquainted with dramatic writings, and the manners of men, and fitted to be a member of his silent club, he found him among the members of this house. Indeed, when I think of all these men whom I have mentioned, and those who are inseparably associated with them, "visions of glory burst upon my aching sight," and I feel that it was a most precious direction of Providence that led me to the Inner Temple there to receive my preparation for the practice of the law, and to procure the right to be heard in courts where that law is administered.

As I desire to impress upon our young men the importance of constant study and meditation, may I present to them a group of four men, members of this house, for their example. The character of these four men has been sketched by a master hand, and their fitness for being held in everlasting esteem is assured by the fact that the man who loved and wrote of them was Sir Matthew Hale. Speaking of Rolle, the author of the "Abridgment," Hale says "that he spent his time under the Bar, and for some years after, in diligent study of the common law, neglecting no opportunity to improve his knowledge therein, and he had this happiness in relation thereunto, that from his first admission to the Society of the Inner Temple he had contemporaries of the same society of great parts, learning and eminence, as namely : Sir Edward Lyttelton, afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England ; Sir Edward Herbert, afterwards Attorney-General ; Sir Thomas Gardyner, afterwards Recorder of London, and that *treasury of all kind of learning*, Mr. John Selden. With these he kept a long, constant and familiar converse and acquaintance, and thereby greatly improved both his own learning and theirs, especially in the common law, which he principally intended. It was the constant and almost daily course for many years together of *these great traders in learning*, to bring in their several acquests therein, as it were, into a common stock by mutual communication, whereby each of them became in a great

measure the participant and common possessor of the other's learning and knowledge." To have introduced these four men, with their zeal and thirst for knowledge, the methods by which they digested it, to any students of this Inn who were unacquainted with them, would perhaps alone justify my placing before you a work which has been to me a labour of love.

In conclusion, I earnestly pray that for the enlightened and conscientious administration of the law, this house may still supply a long and noble line of men. Every man who means to live well in the present must know the past, and every great leader has sought to inspire men by unrolling the names of the illustrious dead. I have presented to you the noble record of this house, imperfectly I know, with an earnest desire to secure in all its members devotion to duty, purity of life, and courage in the exercise of the privileges it confers. "Seeing then that we *also* are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with patience the race that is set before us."



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